

NEW YORK YANKEES

American League East





10684

FRANCHISE WINS

82-80

2023 SEASON

4th

DIVISION

#21

FARM SYSTEM RANK

New York City, NY - Yankee Stadium (46,537) Manager: Aaron Boone (509-361, 7th Season)

Forgetting the 2023 Bronx Bummer

Don't look now, but it's been well over a decade since the Bronx Bombers hoisted the World Series trophy or even appeared in the Fall Classic and last season was their worst since the year before their last championship in 2009. A combination of age and injuries led to a 10-year low in runs and only the 112-loss Oakland Athletics had fewer hits than New York. When the dust settled, the Yankees found themselves in fourth in the AL East, a place they hadn't been since 1992 when the division had 7 teams. The once feared "Evil Empire" of baseball has consistently missed on free agent signings in recent years, and, outside of Aaron Judge, the home-grown prospects who have found success in New York have been few and far between. Will the reinforcements added in 2024 be able to change the trajectory of this team?

Batting

Yes, the Yankees have missed on free agent singings in recent years (see: Josh Donaldson, Joev Gallo, Corey Kluber, and J.A. Happ, to name a few), but Juan Soto is about as sure of a bet as there is. The Yankees traded with the Padres to acquire one of the best pure hitters in the game. It's a one year rental as this is Soto's contract year, but if he lives up to his own high expectations, he could become the highestpaid Yankee of all time. New York also made a rare trade with rival Boston for Alex Verdugo who joins Soto in the outfield. Of course, Aaron Judge, will occupy center. Injuries cost him nearly 60 games last season and he didn't come close to replicating his historic MVP campaign of 2022. But, he still mashed 37 home runs in just 367 plate appearances and his OPS topped 1.000 for the third time in his career. The difference between the Yankee's offense was night and day when he was in the lineup so it's critical that he stay healthy in 2024 like he did in 2021 and 2022. With Soto, Judge, and Verdugo in the outfield, Giancarlo Stanton will fill the designated hitter role almost exclusively. Although he hit 24 home runs, his 2023 season was otherwise a complete disaster and he posted a career-worst .191 batting average.

Aaron Judge



Photo via San Diego Union Tribune

DJ LeMahieu didn't fare all that much better. After leading the majors in batting average in 2020, he too suffered through his career-worst season with a .243 average and an OPS+ that was below league average. His defense remained strong, however, and he split time between mostly first and third in 2023. Anthony Rizzo suffered a concussion on May 28 that wasn't fully diagnosed until August and he missed significant time. The expectation is that he will be fully healthy in 2024 which is great news for the team in pinstripes. Anthony Volpe's MLB debut was highly anticipated but the results were mixed. He displayed great power but was a consistent strikeout candidate and his slash line was just .209/.283/.383. However, his defense was simply superb and he won a gold glove. If he takes the next step at the plate, he'll become a badly needed young centerpiece for this franchise moving forward. Austin Wells will have a chance to join that category. Jasson Dominguez is another young Yankee to watch, but he will be sidelined with an elbow injury until at least this summer. Gleyber Torres was a rare bright spot offensively in 2023 and Trent Grisham will contribute off the bench as a part of the Soto deal.

Pitching

While the Yankees as a team were wildly inconsistent, Gerrit Cole was remarkably dominant, claiming his first Cy Young Award after finishing in the top five in voting on five separate occasions. His 2.63 ERA led the American League and his 0.981 WHIP led the majors. Somehow, even into his 30s and despite the pressure of pitching for the Yankees, Cole has only gotten better and he almost never misses a start. The Yankees added Marcus Stroman to the rotation who is coming off a 2023 All-Star appearance. Carlos Rodón was an All-Star for the Chicago White Sox in 2021 and for the San Francisco Giants in 2022. For the Yankees in 2023, he was a completely different pitcher, and not in a good way. Injuries had a lot to do with it, but he saw his ERA balloon up to 6.85. Considering that the Yankees spent \$162 million on the now 31-year-old, there's certainly cause for concern if he can't quickly return to form. The back end of the rotation has some questions too with Clarke Schmidt and Nestor Cortes as the likely candidates to fill the last two starting roles.

The Yankee bullpen was the best in the majors last season, posting a 3.34 ERA. A couple key pieces from that group have moved on but this still figures to be a strong group with Jonathan Loáisiga as a very capable set-up man and Clay Holmes assuming the full-time closing role. If the Yankees get quality pitching out of newly acquired lefty Victor González, the bullpen will remain one of baseball's best.

The Bottom Line

The Yankees have never been afraid to spend money and the 2024 offseason was no exception. The trade of Juan Soto has a chance to completely revolutionize this offense, but there are still injury concerns in some key areas as Yankee hitters like LeMahieu, Rizzo, and Stanton continue to age. If there are injuries, depth is a concern. The pitching staff should be strong so it's not as if the offense has to be the best in the majors for the Yankees to have success. If the hitters can get away from a "home run or bust mentality", this team will be

better for it. Improvement is quite possible even in a highly competitive division and the Yankees should grab a Wild Card spot in the postseason.

2024 Projection: 89-73, 2nd in AL East



2023 MLB Ranks

RPG - 4.15 (25th) HITS - 1207 (29th) HR - 219 (9th) ERA - 3.97 (10th)

SO - 1439 (12th) FD% - .984% (19th)

New York Yankees...

Gerrit Cole



Photo via CNBC

YANKEES 5-YEAR WIN TREND

2019			10	03
2020*	33			
2021			92	
2022			9	9
2023			82	
	30	0 6	0 9	0 120

< Number to Know

According to FanGraphs, the Yankees added a projected 7.3 WAR with their offseason additions, giving them the second-most improved roster behind only the Dodgers.



Photo via Populous

	Projected Lineup		'23 AVG
26	DJ LeMahieu	3B	.243
22	Juan Soto	RF	.275
99	Aaron Judge	CF	.267
48	Anthony Rizzo	1B	.244
25	Gleyber Torres	2B	.273
27	Giancarlo Stanton	DH	.191
24	Alex Verdugo	LF	.264
11	Anthony Volpe	SS	.209
88	Austin Wells	С	.229

	Projected Rotation		'23 ERA
45	Gerrit Cole	SP	2.63
0	Marcus Stroman	SP	3.95
55	Carlos Rodón	SP	6.85
36	Clarke Schmidt	SP	4.64
65	Nestor Cortes	SP	4.97
35	Clay Holmes	CL	2.86

PLAYER SPOTLIGHT Juan Soto - RF



2023 Statistics

GP AVG OPS HR RBI 162 .275 .930 35 109

Soto's career OPS is .946. Oh, and he's just 25years old which means there is still potential for him to get, brace yourselves, better. Putting on the pinstripes certainly adds pressure, but Soto hasn't shied away from the spotlight to this point and already has a World Series under his belt. He's a great hitter for any team, but he provides what the Yankees as a team have been sorely lacking: someone who can hit for average and get on-base at an extremely high level. There will be plenty of pop behind Soto in the lineup including a guy named Aaron Judge who knows a thing or two about hitting homers. A match made in heaven?

2024 Schedule

March/April 2024							
				28 HOU 4:10	HOU 8:10	HOU 30 7:15	
HOU 31 2:10	ARI 9:40	ARI 9:40	ARI 3:40		TOR 1:05	TOR 7:05	
TOR 7	MIA TBD	MIA 7:05	MIA 7:05		CLE 7:10	CLE 6:10	
CLE 1:40	TOR 15 7:07	TOR 7:07	TOR 3:07		TB 19 7:05	TB 20 1:05	
TB 21 1:35	OAK 22 1:05	OAK ²³ 7:05	OAK 7:05	OAK ²⁵ 7:05	MIL 8:10	MIL 7:10	
MIL 2:10	BAL 6:35	BAL 6:35					

May 2024						
			BAL 6:35	BAL 1:05	DET 7:05	DET 4 1:05
DET 5 1:35		HOU 7 7:05	HOU ⁸ 7:05	HOU 9 5:05	TB 10 6:50	TB 11 4:10
TB 12		MIN 14 7:40	MIN 15 7:40	MIN 16 1:10	cws ¹⁷ 7:05	cws ¹⁸ 1:05
CWS 19 1:35	20 SEA 7:05	SEA 7:05	SEA 7:05	23 SEA 12:35	SD 24 9:40	SD 25 9:40
SD 26 4:10		LAA 9:38	LAA 9:38	LAA 9:38	SF 10:15	

June 2024							
						SF 10:15	
SF 4:05		MIN 7:05	MIN 7:05	MIN 7:05	LAD 7 7:05	LAD 8 7:35	
LAD 7:00	KC 10 8:10	KC 11 8:10	KC 12 8:10	KC 13 2:10	BOS 7:10	BOS 7:15	
BOS 7:00		18 BAL 7:05	19 BAL 7:05	BAL 4:05	ATL 7:05	22 ATL 7:15	
ATL 23 1:35		NYM ²⁵ 7:10	NYM ²⁶ 7:10	TOR 27 7:07	TOR 28 7:07	TOR 29 3:07	
TOR 1:37							

July 2024									
		CIN 2 CIN 3 CIN 4 BOS 5 BOS 6 7:05 1:05							
BOS 7		TB 6:50	TB 10 6:50	TB 11 6:50	BAL 7:05	BAL 13 4:05			
BAL 14 1:35	All-St	All-Star Break - Arlington, TX				TB ²⁰ 1:05			
TB 21 1:35	TB 22 1:05	NYM ²³ 7:05	NYM ²⁴ 7:05		BOS 7:10	BOS 27 7:15			
BOS 1:35	PHI 6:40	90 PHI 6:40	91 PHI 12:35						

	August 2024							
					TOR ² 7:05	TOR ³ 1:05		
TOR 4		LAA ⁶	LAA 7	LAA ⁸	TEX 9	TEX 10		
1:35		7:05	7:05	7:05	7:05	1:05		
TEX 11 1:35	cws ¹² 8:10	cws ¹³ 8:10	cws ¹⁴ 8:10		DET 16 6:40	DET 17 1:10		
DET 18		CLE 20	CLE 21	CLE 22	COL ²³	COL 24		
7:00		7:05	7:05	1:05	7:05	2:05		
COL 25	WSH ²⁶	WSH ²⁷	WSH ²⁸		STL 30	STL 31		
1:35	6:45	6:45	6:45		7:05	1:05		

September 2024						
STL 1 1:35	TEX 8:05	TEX 8:05	TEX 8:05		CHC 2:20	CHC 7 2:20
CHC 2:20	KC 7:05	KC 7:05	KC 7:05	BOS 12 7:05	BOS 13 7:05	BOS 14 1:35
BOS 15 1:35		SEA 17 9:40	SEA 18 9:40	SEA 19 4:10	OAK 20 9:40	OAK 21 9:07
OAK 22 4:07		BAL 7:05	BAL 25 7:05	BAL 26 7:05	PIT 7:05	PIT 28 1:05
PIT 29 3:05						

HOME

AWAY

PROSPECT TO WATCH **Austin Wells - C**

The Yankees traded away Kyle Higashioka in the Soto trade which means that the 24-year-old Austin Wells will have his opportunity to be a starting catcher in the majors. He quickly made a name for himself by collecting his first career hit off of a future hall-of-famer, Justin Verlander. He appeared in 19 games last year and showed his power, with 10 of his 16 hits going for extra bases including four home runs. All four of those long bombs came in just the last eight games of the season, and the Yankees are hopeful it's a sign of things to come. His defense is still a question, but if his bat is good enough, Aaron Boone won't have much of a choice but to play him often. A platoon role with right-handed catcher Jose Trevino might be a realistic scenario in the early part of the year.



Photo via New York Post